Emphasis in Critical Theory

An emphasis in Critical Theory, under the supervision of the Committee on Critical Theory, is available for doctoral students in all departments at UCI upon approval of the student’s faculty advisor or associate dean in accordance with departmental policy. Ph.D. students may, with Committee approval, complete the emphasis in addition to the degree requirements of their graduate program. Although there is no change in the existing Ph.D. program requirements or procedures, if the student wishes to have a letter (signed by the Dean and by the Director of Critical Theory) testifying that the student has satisfactorily added this theoretical dimension to the graduate program, then additional requirements must be met. Critical theory at UCI is understood in the broad sense as the study of the shared assumptions, problems, and commitments of the various discourses in the humanities. The faculty regards critical theory not as an adjunct to the study of one of the traditional humanistic disciplines but as a necessary context for the study of any humanistic discipline.

Admission to the emphasis may be granted by the Critical Theory Committee in response to the student’s petition. The petition normally is submitted by the middle of the second year of graduate study, after completion of one Humanities 270 seminar, and upon the recommendation of the Workshop’s instructor or a faculty representative of the student’s department.

Requirements: (1) a three-quarter Critical Theory Workshop, conducted preferably by a team of instructors, conceived as a reading group, and developed with the input of all participants, where significant texts are discussed and analyzed in class. No term papers are required, and the course is graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only. Students receive credit for this course only in the spring quarter. For the first two quarters, the course is 0 units with IP grading; (2) three HUMAN 270 courses offered under the supervision of the Committee. At least three such courses will be offered each quarter; (3) participation in two mini-seminars (six–eight hours) offered by visiting scholars (and sponsored by the Committee) on the visiting scholar’s ongoing research; and (4) a dissertation that reflects the students’ preparation in critical theory; alternatively, a research paper written under the guidance of one or more of the Emphasis faculty and submitted to the Director.

Participating Faculty

Ackbar Abbas, Departments of Comparative Literature and of Film and Media Studies
Luis F. Avilés, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Etienne Balibar (Emeritus), Department of Comparative Literature
Stephen Barker, Department of Drama
Ermanno Bencivenga, Department of Philosophy
Thomas Boellstorff, Department of Anthropology
Ellen S. Burt, Departments of English and Comparative Literature

Juli Carson, Department of Art
Vinayak Chaturvedi, Department of History
Chungmoo Choi, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures
David Theo Goldberg, Departments of Comparative Literature and of Criminology, Law and Society
Daniel M. Gross, Department of English
Laura H. Y. Kang, Departments of Women’s Studies, Comparative Literature, and English
Arlene R. Keizer, Department of English
Kyung Hyun Kim, Departments of East Asian Languages and Literatures and of Film and Media Studies
Horacio Legrás, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Felicidad “Bliss” Cua Lim, Department of Film and Media Studies
Julia Reinhard Lupton, Departments of English, Comparative Literature, and Education
Steven J. Mailloux (Emeritus), Department of English
William M. Maurer, Department of Anthropology
J. Hillis Miller (Emeritus), Departments of Comparative Literature and English
Yong Soon Min, Department of Art
Carrie J. Noland, Department of European Languages and Studies
Margot Norris (Emerita), Department of English
Laura O’Connor, Departments of English and Comparative Literature
Kevin Olson, Department of Political Science
Rachel O’Toole, Department of History
David T. Pan, Department of German
Kavita Philip, Department of History
James I. Porter, Department of Classics
R. Radhakrishnan, Departments of English and Comparative Literature
Fatimah Tobing Rony, Department of Film and Media Studies
Annette Schlichter, Department of Comparative Literature
Gabriele Schwab, Departments of Comparative Literature and English
Martin Schwab (Emeritus), Department of Philosophy
Jared Sexton, Department of Film and Media Studies and Program in African American Studies
David W. Smith, Department of Philosophy
John H. Smith, Departments of European Languages and Studies and of Comparative Literature
Emphasis in Critical Theory

James Steintrager, Departments of English and Comparative Literature

Ulrike Strasser, Department of History

Rei Terada, Department of Comparative Literature

Brook Thomas, Department of English

Andrzej Warminska, Department of English